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## Christmas Legends Here and Abroad

All holidays have legends, but Christmas, probably has more than any other.

In Finland, for example, all members of Finnish families must take a steam bath before the festivities of Christmas Eve begin.

In India, one week before the holiday of Christmas, all the Armenian villages that observe the holiday, fast by not eating animal food. On the last day they eat no food at all, until they take communion on Christmas Eve.

In Greece, special loaves of bread are baked for Christmas. Each loaf is marked with a cross on top and a silver coin is concealed within. According to the custom, the person finding the coin is destined for a prosperous new year.

In Germany, the story is told of how the silver pine cone became associated with Christmas. Legend has it that an old woman was climbing a mountain in Germany to gather pine cones for fuel. An elf, who had been walking beside her, told her to take the cones from under one particular tree, and then vanished. Mystified, the woman gathered the cones under the one tree, and when she got home she found they had turned to silver.

In Bohemia young girls believe that if they cut a hole in the ice on Christmas Eve they

reflected in the water.

In Mexico, every home erects an altar with a pesebra, a representation of the Nativity, in preparation for the posada. Posada means resting place and commemorates the journey of Mary and Joseph and their attempt to find lodging for the memorable night. In addition, every home must be decorated and ready to receive guests by Dec. 16, in preparation for the following nine days which are filled with great festivity.

When the Puritans settled in America, the whole idea of celebrating Christmas was frowned upon in New England. It was so bitterly opposed that in 1659 a law was passed in Massachusetts which read:

"Whoever shall be found observing any such day as Christmas or the like, either by forbearing of labor, feasting in any other way, shall be fined 5 shillings."

As the Puritan influence wore off and more and more immigrants came to America, the celebration of Christmas became a mixture of the customs and traditions of many countries.

One unusual custom, part of the holiday festivities of the early West, was shooting the wishbone. The wishbone from the holiday turkey was placed on a pole or tree and the men took turns shooting at it.

## Executive Board Elects Committee

Torrance High School PTA Executive Board elected a committee to assist life membership chairman, Mrs. Frank Lane, at its December meeting.

Those named were Mmes. Paul Crossmen, Howard Wood School; Walter Mathlin, Fern-Greenwood; J. D. Dutton, Torrance Elementary; and Charles Hornbeck, Madrona.

true split of the wishbone prophesied good health, harvest and fortune for the new year for the sharpshooter.

## Food Giant to Give 1001 Tickets to 1001 Arabian Nights Movie

Food Giant Markets will give away 1001 Arabian nights of entertainment to lucky customers this week end. The market chain has announced drawings to be held at all Los Angeles and Orange County stores on Monday, Dec. 21, for pairs of tickets to the new Columbia feature-length picture, "1001 Arabian Nights," starring the famous cartoon character Mr. Magoo. In a simultaneous drawing, 200 books will be given away to children under twelve, according to market officials.

Tickets to the full-length cartoon feature will be honored at any of the sixteen local theaters at which "1001 Arabian Nights" will play from Dec. 21 through Jan. 1.

Children and adults interested in the two drawings may leave their names and addresses at any of the twenty-six Food Giant Markets from today through Dec. 20. Names of winners will be posted on store windows after the Dec. 21st drawings; winners need not be present at the time of the drawings.

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